

2007 Teacher of Year Nominations Process Open

The 2007 South Dakota Teacher of the Year program is now underway! We strongly urge every school district to join this exciting program this year. The Teacher of the Year program is an honor for teachers, is an excellent way to acknowledge and laud your gold-standard teachers, and is a great way to inspire all teachers in your district.

How can our school district participate in the program?

A school district may choose to set up its own selection process for choosing and recognizing a District Teacher of the Year locally. However, the Department of Education has created guidelines and templates that a school district may use if it does not have time to create its own program from scratch. These guidelines and templates are available online at <http://www.doe.sd.gov/oatq/distinguishededucators/TOY/index.asp>. The templates can, of course, be altered to fit your district's needs.

How does our District Teacher of the Year become eligible for the ESA Regional and/or the South Dakota Teacher of the Year award?

Each District Teacher of the Year becomes a nominee for his or her district's ESA Regional Teacher of the Year Award. If the District Teacher of the Year is selected as the ESA Regional Teacher of the Year, he or she becomes a nominee for the South Dakota Teacher of the Year award. The South Dakota Teacher of the Year then becomes a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

The South Dakota Teacher of the Year will be selected and announced by November 1 and a banquet will be held in Pierre in January to honor both the new South Dakota Teacher of the Year and all seven of the ESA Regional Teachers of the Year.

When is the 2007 South Dakota Teacher of the Year application due?

All ESA Regional Teachers of the Year must have their completed 2007 South Dakota Teacher of the Year application packets in to Nicole Kranzler-Gacke at the Department of Education, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501 *no later than July 1* in order to be eligible for the South Dakota Teacher of the Year award.

How do we know if an educator has the qualities of a Teacher of the Year?

The goal of the Teacher of the Year Program is to recognize the tremendous contributions of outstanding classroom teachers. District Teachers of the Year represent their districts and may end up representing their ESA Region, South Dakota, and/or the U.S., so each Teacher of the Year candidate should:

- Have a superior ability to inspire students of ALL backgrounds and abilities to learn;
- Be an exceptionally skilled and dedicated teacher from a state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve;
- Be planning to continue in an active teaching status (supervisory and administrative responsibilities are secondary considerations);
- Have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues;
- Play an active and useful role in the community as well as in the school; and
- Be poised, articulate, and have the energy to withstand the demanding schedule that would accompany selection as the South Dakota Teacher of the Year.

How do I found out more about the Teacher of the Year program?

To learn more about the South Dakota Teacher of the Year Program, visit <http://www.doe.sd.gov/oatq/distinguishededucators/TOY/index.asp> or contact Nicole Kranzler-Gacke via email at nicole.kranzlergacke@state.sd.us or by phone at 605-773-3426. For information on the National Teacher of the Year program, visit http://www.ccsso.org/Projects/National_Teacher_of_the_Year/.